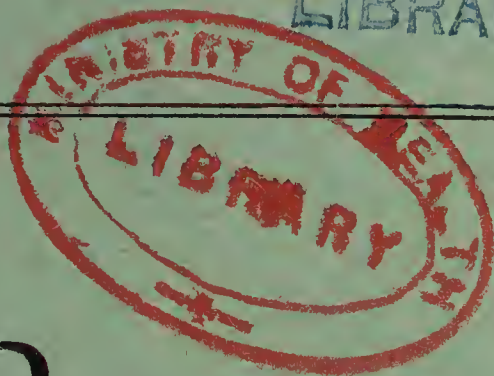


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Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

Rural District Council of Louth

For the Year 1938

BY

W. J. WILKINSON,

M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P., Lond.

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**Public Health Officers of the
Louth Rural District Council**

i

Medical Officer of Health—

W. J. WILKINSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Sanitary Inspector—

W. M. TAYLOR, M.S.I.A., A.R.SAN.I.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Louth
Rural District Council.**

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1938,

1 Vital Statistics.

Area	-	-	153,229 Acres
Population—(a) Census 1931	-	-	16,681
(b) Estimated by Registrar General 1938 (middle of)			16,680
Number of Parishes	-	-	79
Number of inhabited houses			5,231
Census 1931	-	-	5,620
Number of inhabited houses December 31st, 1938	-	-	
Rateable Value at Dec. 31st, 1938	-	-	£48,369
Sum represented by id. rate	-	-	£225

2 Extracts from Vital Statistics.

	M	F	Total	Total Birth Rate per 1000
Live Births				
Legitimate	105	107	212	227 13·6
Illegitimate	5	10	15	
Still Births				Rate per 1,000 total Births 17·6
Legitimate	2	1	3	
Illegitimate	—	1	1	
Deaths	98	106	204	Death Rate per 1,000 12·23

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth—

From sepsis	-	0
From other causes		1

Deaths—Infants under one year of age —

	M	F	Total
Legitimate	11	8	19
Illegitimate	0	0	0

Death rate of infants under one year of age per 1,000 births—

Louth Rural District	...	83·7
England and Wales	...	53

Deaths from Measles	...	...	nil
„ Whooping Cough		...	nil
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	1

The district death rate is 12·23 as against 11·6 for England and Wales and the average age at which death took place is again high.

Out of the 204 deaths during the year, 137 were of persons of 60 years and upwards, i.e., a percentage of 67·8 and a further analysis of these gives the following figures—

Between 60 and 70 years of age	49 deaths
„ 71 and 80	46 „
„ 81 and 90	35 „
„ 91 and 100	7 „

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.

There were 19 deaths of Infants under 1 year of age as against 7 in 1937.

Deaths from Cancer.

There were 25 deaths from cancer as against 24 the year before, the average age at which death took place being 62 (69 in 1937).

In 16 of these cases the site of the disease was in the Alimentary canal, the areas affected being as follows—Tongue 1, Stomach 3, Intestines 7, Rectum 1, Liver and Gall Bladder 2, Pancreas 2.

Other areas affected were—Larynx 1, Lungs 1, Breast 1, Female Organs 5, Male Organs 1.

3 Infections Diseases (Notifiable).

Incidence of, during the year.

Disases	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Small Pox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	2	1	—
Diphtheria	2	1	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—
Erysipelas	6	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—
Chicken Pox	26	—	—
Tuberculosis	14	2	10
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Pneumonia	6	—	11 (all forms)
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Acute Polio-encephalitis	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—
Malaria	1	1*	—

* From R.A.F. Camp, North Cotes.

TUBERCULOSIS

New cases and mortality in 1938.

AGE PERIOD	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary M	Pulmonary F	Non-Pulmonary M	Non-Pulmonary F	Pulmonary M	Pulmonary E	Non-Pulmonary M	Non-Pulmonary F
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	2	—	1	—	1	2	—	—
35—45	—	1	2	—	—	2	1	—
45—55	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
TOTALS ...	2	7	4	—	1	7	2	—

Control of Infectious Disease.

On the occurrence of a case of Infectious Disease, steps are taken at once to trace the source of infection.

Instructions are given as to the isolation of the patient, and disinfectants are supplied. When the medical practitioner in charge of the case reports that the patient has recovered sufficiently, the house is disinfected with Formalin by the Sanitary Inspector.

Any case of small-pox occurring in the district will be removed to the Small-pox Hospital, at Osgodby, and the necessary steps will be taken to disinfect all clothes, etc., and to vaccinate, or re-vaccinate all contacts.

Patients suffering from other infectious diseases are in exceptional circumstances, e.g.—difficulty of isolation, other illness, or an impending confinement in the house, removed to the Isolation Hospital at Osgodby, and cases needing Surgical or other Special Treatment, to Grimsby Isolation Hospital at Scarthoe.

Patients so sent away are expected to pay a reasonable share of the cost of their maintenance whilst in Hospital.

A stock of disinfectants which are supplied free for use in cases of infectious diseases, is kept at the following places—

Aby, at Dr. McNabb's Surgery.
Binbrook, at my Surgery.
Louth, at the Sanitary Inspector's Office.
Ludford, at my Surgery.
North Somercotes, at Dr. Gabbe's Surgery.
North Thoresby, at Dr. Stanley's ,,
Withern, at Dr. McNabb's ,,

Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied free of charge, and can be obtained from the Sanitary Inspector, Council Offices Cannon Street, Louth; or from me.

4 Other Causes of Sickness.

INFLUENZA

was conspicuous by its absence.

MEASLES.

Occurred in epidemic form at Kelstern in January and the school was closed for a fortnight, but except for that there were only a few odd cases in the district.

WHOOPING COUGH

Was epidemic at Ludford, Binbrook, Burgh-on-Bain and Grimoldby in the early part of the year, and at South Elkington in July. The Schools affected were closed.

CHICKEN POX.

There were many cases, chiefly in the Marsh Villages, during the year, but it was not necessary to close any of the schools.

5 Summary of Nursing Arrangements, etc.

General. There are District Nurses at North Somercotes, Hainton, North Cotes, Grimoldby, Authorpe and Binbrooke.

For Infectious Disease. There is a Nurse stationed at Louth by the County Council, to visit cases of Measles and Whooping Cough reported by the School teachers, and to help in the nursing if necessary.

She is also available to help in nursing cases of Puerperal Fever and Ophthalmia Neonatorum, if required by, and under the instructions of, the doctor in charge of the case.

Ambulance Facilities.

A Motor Ambulance, maintained by the British Red Cross is available for the conveyance of non-infectious and accident cases. It is stationed at the Mason's Arms Yard, Louth.

6 Sanitation.

A summary of the work done during the year, will be found in Appendix Table 2.

7 Food Supply.

(a) MILK.

Mr. Adams, M.R.C.V.S., reports as follows :

During 1938 I have inspected the premises of all the Milk Producers in the district on various occasions.

The cleanliness of the milk and premises is generally satisfactory, and a number of structural improvements to the premises have been made.

Samples of milk dispatched for bacteriological analysis have proved satisfactory in the large majority of cases, and in no case were Tubercle Bacilli found in any sample

There are about 115 Milk Producers in the area, together with about 1500 registered for the occasional sale of a little milk or butter.

A. H. ADAMS, M R.C.V.S.

(b) MEAT.

During 1938 the 38 slaughterhouses in the Louth Rural District have been inspected by me on various occasions.

The cleanliness, lighting, ventilation, drainage and water supply are satisfactory, and the quality of meat killed is excellent.

A. H. ADAMS, M.R.C.V.S.

8 Water Supply.

The water supply in the district is, on the whole, satisfactory, the quality of the water being generally very good.

An analysis was made of 20 samples, ten of these samples which were taken from shallow wells were found to be contaminated and the necessary steps were taken to provide a satisfactory supply.

A public water supply for the parishes of Grimoldby and Manby and for the R.A.F. Station at Manby was provided during the year, also a sewerage system.

The supply appears to be very satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

Samples were taken for analysis on several occasions when the supply was started, and have been taken quarterly since, on each occasion the report was very satisfactory,

9 Pollution of Rivers.

The Beck at Grimoldby was again badly polluted by the effluent from the butter factory at the Grange. A public inquiry was held by the Ministry of Health, and the Council were instructed to take legal action if necessary. Steps are being taken to abate the nuisance,

10 Offensive Trades.

The fell-mongers yards at Binbrooke, Marshchapel, Donington-on-Bain and Waithe, were carried on satisfactorily during the year.

11 Collection of Refuse.

In the parishes of Holton le-Clay, North Thoresby, Marshchapel and North Cotes, refuse is regularly collected and carted away to a dumping ground at North Thoresby pits.

12 Schools.

The sanitary arrangements at the schools in the district are on the whole satisfactory,

13 Housing.

During the year, 50 new houses were built by private enterprise, and in addition 45 were reconditioned under the Housing (Rural Workers') Act. The survey of unfit cottages made by order of the Minister of Health, was completed in July, and as result it was found that 80 houses ought to be demolished; 157 were capable of being made fit by reconditioning, and 43 only needed ordinary repairs. Steps are being taken to carry these recommendations into effect,

Several sites were secured by the Council during the year, and it is hoped that a fair percentage of the Council's Housing Scheme will be completed in 1939.

In conclusion, I beg to thank the Chairman and Members of the Housing and Public Health Acts Committees for their continued kindness and consideration to me during the past year.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

W. J. WILKINSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

APPENDIX (TABLE No. 1).

Causes of Death in the RURAL DISTRICT of LOUTH during the year, 1938.

			Males.	Females
All Causes	...	...	98	106
1 Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	—	—
2 Measles	...	...	—	—
3 Scarlet Fever	...	...	—	—
4 Whooping cough	...	...	—	—
5 Diphtheria	...	...	—	—
6 Influenza	...	...	1	—
7 Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	—	—
8 Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	—	—
9 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	1	7
10 Other Tuberculous disease	...	...	2	—
11 Syphilis	...	...	—	—
12 General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	...	...	1	—
13 Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	10	15
14 Diabetes	...	...	1	1
15 Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.	...	...	6	8
16 Heart disease	...	...	24	31
17 Aneurysm	...	...	—	—
18 Other circulatory diseases	...	...	6	4
19 Bronchitis	...	...	3	4
20 Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	6	5
21 Other respiratory diseases	...	...	—	—
22 Peptic Ulcer	...	...	—	—
23 Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	1	—
24 Appendicitis	...	...	—	—
25 Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	1	—
26 Other diseases of liver, etc.	...	...	—	1
27 Other digestive diseases	...	...	4	2
28 Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	—	—
29 Puerperal sepsis	...	...	—	—
30 Other puerperal causes	...	...	—	—
31 Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	...	...	8	6
32 Senility	...	...	7	11
33 Suicide	...	...	2	1
34 Other violence	...	...	7	3
35 Other defined diseases	...	...	7	7
36 Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	—	—

Appendix (Table No. 2.)

Summary of Sanitary Work

DURING THE YEAR 1938.

Movable Dwellings Tents, Vans, etc.	{	No. inspected during the year	...	32
		No. of nuisances therefrom abated	...	0
		No. removed from district...	...	1
Bakehouses	{	No. in district	...	10
		No. of underground bakehouses	...	0
		No. of Inspections	...	21
		Contraventions of Factory Acts	...	7
		Defects remedied	...	6
Slaughter-houses	{	No. on register	...	38
		No. of Inspections	...	249
		Contraventions of Bye-laws	...	0
		Defects remedied	...	4
Cowsheds	{	No. on register	...	583
		No. of Inspections	...	974
		Contraventions of regulations	...	13
		Contraventions remedied	...	13
		No of milch cows in district	2,500 approx.	
Dairies and Milk Shops	{	No. on register	...	115
		No. of Inspections	...	467
		Contraventions of regulations	...	1
		Contraventions remedied	...	1
		Any instance of disease attributed to milk during the year	...	0
Shops and Offices	{	Contraventions of Shops Act, 1934	...	0
Camping Sites.	{	No. of sites used in 1933	not known	
		No. of licences issued	...	2
		Estimated No. of campers in 1938	not known	
Swimming Baths		...	...	nil
Eradication of Bed Bugs		...	...	ni

UNSOUND FOOD.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. killed (if known)	—	—	—	—	—
No. inspected	327	62	38	425	295
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned	14	5	2	4	7
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	18	3	—	5	—
Percentage of the No. in- spected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis	9%	12 3%	6.2%	2 1%	2.4%
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	3	—	—	5
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	5	6	—	—	—
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with Tuberculosis	1 5%	14.5%	—	—	1.7%

Offensive Trades	{	No. of premises in district	...	3		
		No. of Inspections	...	5		
		Contraventions of Bye-laws	...	0		
		Contraventions remedied	...	0		
Water Supply	{	Wells	{	New sunk (exclusive of new buildings)	...	10
		Cleansed, repaired		...	2	
		Closed as polluted		...	6	
	{	Public Supply	{	Area supplied partly Manby & Grimoldby	...	49
		Percentage of houses supplied		...	0	
		New Cisterns provided		...	0	
		Cisterns cleansed, repaired, covered, etc.		...	20	
			Number of samples obtained for analysis	...	nil	
		Any insufficiency and where	...	nil		

Closets	{	No. of houses with privy vaults in district	not known
		No of houses with pail closets in district	not known
		No. of pail closets substituted for privy vaults	... 17
		No. of pail closets repaired	... 0
		No. of water closets substituted for dry receptacles	... 0
		No. of houses with water closets in district	not known
		No. of water closets repaired	... 0
Drains	{	Drains examined, tested, exposed, etc	... 43
		Drains unstopped, repaired, trapped, etc.	... 19
		Drains reconstructed	... 43
Sewer		New lengths of sewer laid	(approx.) 239 yds.
Tanks, Filter Beds, etc.	{	Alterations to sewage disposal works	... 0
		Inadequacy of sewage disposal works or complaints as to smells	.. 0
Cesspools	{	Cesspools rendered impervious	... 0
		Cesspools emptied, cleansed, etc.	... 1
		Cesspools abolished	... 10
Disinfection	{	Rooms disinfected	... 8
		(a) ordinary infectious disease	... 8
		(b) tuberculosis	... 0
		Rooms stripped and cleansed	... 0
		Articles disinfected or destroyed	... 0
		(a) ordinary infectious disease	... 3
		(b) tuberculosis	... 0
Nuisances	{	Total number of nuisances during the year—	
		(1) Abated as result of informal action by the Sanitary Inspector	48
		(2) Reported to Council Statutory notice issued	... 7
		Statutory notices not issued	... 0

DETAILS ON NUISANCES ABATED.

	After Informal Intimation.	After Statutory Notice.
Overcrowding	1	
Smoke	0	
Accumulation of refuse	1	
Foul ditches, ponds and stagnant water	13	
Foul pigs and other animals	1	
Dampness	0	
Yard re-paved or repaired	1	
Other nuisances	31	7

Appendix (Table No. 3).

Housing Statistics for 1938.

Total Number of new houses erected during the year			50
(I)	By the Local Authority	...	0
(II)	By other Local Authorities	...	0
(III)	By other bodies or persons	...	50

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:—*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	116
(b) Number of inspections for the purpose		425
(2) (a) No. of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were in- spected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	...	65
(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose		81
(3) No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	48

(4) No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	22
---	-----	----

2. *Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notice.*

No. of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	...	32
---	-----	----

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year.*

A—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 36 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	4
(2) No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—		
(a) By owners	...	1
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	nil

B—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	9
(2) No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—		
(a) By owners	...	7
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	nil

C—Proceedings under Sections 11, and 13 of the
Housing Act, 1936

(1)	No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	3
(2)	No. of dwelling-houses demolished in persuance of Demolition Orders	...	3
(3)	No. of dwelling-houses subject to under- takings	...	4

D—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing
Act, 1936 :—

(1)	No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	nil
(2)	No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	nil

4 *Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding.*

(a)	(1)	No. of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	16
	(2)	No. of families dwelling therein	...	16
	(3)	No. of persons dwelling therein	105 reduced	
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	—
(c)	(1)	No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	7
	(2)	No. of persons concerned in such cases...		38
(d)		Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved	...	0

